



MERRIMACK
FRIENDS &
FAMILIES

Est. 1973

NOVEMBER 2023

Presidents' Message

Julie Akers & Tammy Ditman



MFF members wrapped up October with a hotdog & bake sale at the Annual Halloween Party at Wasserman Park. Our club has had fun participating in this family friendly town event for three decades! It's always great to get involved in community events. The MFF November calendar is already filling up with fun social outings and a wonderful community service project. Be sure to watch for evites to potluck dinners, coffees at Buckley's, two book clubs, walks, lunches, trivia nights and more.

MFF is fortunate to be pairing up with the River Casino and Sports Bar as part of their charitable gaming. Our club will receive a percentage of the proceeds the Casino earns from November 21 - 30! This money will be added to MFF's charitable funds and will be donated to local nonprofits at the end of our club's fiscal year. Last year MFF donated those funds to two food pantries, fuel assistance for the elderly and summer camp scholarships for Merrimack children.

Julie and Tammy

November calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Nov 1	7:00 PM	Wednesday Book Club
Nov 3	6:00 PM	Trivia @ Budweiser
Nov 6	5:45 PM	Stockings for Troops
Nov 7	6:00 PM	Trivia @ Able Ebenezers
Nov 12	9:00 AM	Let's Walk
Nov 13	12:00 PM	Lunch @ Lilac Blossom
Nov 13	7:00 PM	Board Meeting
Nov 14	6:00 PM	Trivia @ Able Ebenezers
Nov 16	7:00 PM	Recipe Swap
Nov 19	9:00 AM	Let's Walk
Nov 19	1:00 PM	Wine Tasting @ Labelle
Nov 20	7:00 PM	Monday Book Club
Nov 21	6:00 PM	Trivia @ Able Ebenezers
Nov 26	9:00 AM	Let's Walk
Nov 28	6:00 PM	Trivia @ Able Ebenezers
Nov 30	6:00 PM	Library Partnership Night

Please see the Evite for additional information

Vice President

Catherine Pepler



Hello MFF Members,

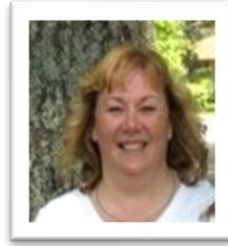
Have you noticed all the publicity we are receiving? Why focus on MFF? Well, we are doing great things, enjoying terrific friendships and giving back to Merrimack! I am confident there are some activities you would find interesting and lots of fun! Come join us!

Catherine Pepler, VP



Treasurer

Bev Coelho



Still time to pay your dues before The Holiday festivities start!

Secretary

Sandy George



Thank you to everyone who has come forward to help out our many members who have needed a bit of help over the past year. I know all the help has been very much appreciated. Remember if you know someone in the club who is struggling and may need a bit of help, please let me know so I can send out an evite to ask for help. We can help with rides, errands, food, etc. so keep that in mind. You may ask for yourself or for someone else.

Sandy George

Ways and Means

Carol Figueroa & Beth Voorhees



On Saturday, October 28th, MFF hosted a bake sale along with selling hot dogs and drinks at the Town of Merrimack Halloween Party. We were fortunate that the weather was beautiful - sunny and warm. We sold out of everything!! We raised \$742 for our charitable fund. A big thank you to those members who took time to bake for the bake sale and especially to the members who volunteered at the event. Thank you!!

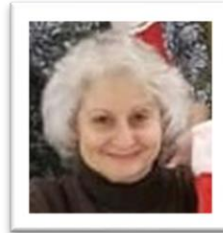
We wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends.

Beth V and Carol F.



Service

Laurie Libby & Jill O'Toole



October events are a wrap! Thanks to all who donated Halloween costumes for SCARE of NH. The group services many families in the area and they had a record year providing costumes to those in need. A few of us attended a costume distribution event in Nashua and it was truly humbling how appreciative the families were and how excited the children were searching through the bins for the perfect costume.

November activities - We will be filling Stockings for the Troops on Monday November 6th 5:45 pm in the Klumpp room at the Library. We are able to provide 50 Christmas stockings with goodies and a Christmas greeting thanks to those who signed up to donate the 1500 items needed! If you are unable to attend and have items for the event please reach out to Laurie and we can coordinate a drop off/pick up location.

November 8th we will be volunteering at the Nashua Armory with the Operation Stockings for Troops organization.

Our December activity will be held on 12/8 at 3:00 pm. We will be spreading holiday cheer at Rose Haven assisted living facility. Watch for the Evite.

Thanks,
Laurie and Jill

Membership

Lisa Casell & Robin Johnson



We are off to a great year with seven new members. Membership would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members:

- Laurene Allen
- Nicole Castronovo
- Lydia DeLuca
- Donna LaRue
- Michele Lehtinen
- Paula Johnston
- Kathy Stack

A reminder, if you haven't already done so, please send in your membership dues. You can do so by mailing a check to PO. Box 1516 Merrimack, NH 03054 or paying online through our website at: <https://mff-101539.square.site/product/membership-dues/3?cs=true>. Membership dues are \$25 (\$26 online with fee).

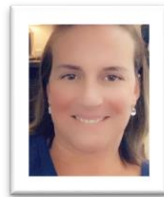
Has a new person moved into your neighborhood? Do you know someone who may be interested in joining MFF? Please let them know about our monthly coffee social at Buckley's Bakery and Cafe on Saturday November 4th at 9:00 am. Hope to see you there.

Robin and Lisa



Publicity

Beth Milliken



Please remember to send pictures of your MMF related events Beth so that we can include them on our Facebook and Instagram pages, along with in our future newsletters. It's so nice to be able to share with our members how much fun we have! When you send, please let me know a quick summary of what the pictures are of.

Happy (almost) fall everyone!
Beth



Happy Birthday!!



Annie R	11/07
Darlene P	11/11
Ceci E	11/20

Interest Group Happenings

Secret Sisters

Secret Sisters is off to a great start! Our October gift exchange was a success. Thank you to everyone who participated and thank you all for the wonderful goodies everyone contributed to our first potluck dinner. Our next potluck gift exchange will occur in January. In the meantime, you are on your own getting your November and December gifts to your SS. If you need any help coordinating, do not hesitate to contact me. I'd be happy to assist!

Sometimes your SS wants to make sure you received your gift from her, but for obvious reasons, she cannot come right out and ask you! So, it is always nice to submit a quick "thank you" note in our monthly WELCOME MAT newsletter to let her know you got it! It is not required, but it is certainly a great gesture. Just send a quick note to Wilma or Barb, our newsletter editors, and they'd be happy to publish it.

Again, thank you for your participation. Let's continue with the fun!!!

Regards,
Jill Mitchell

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## Fitness Friends

Join us for Sunday morning walks!

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Lunch Bunch

Please join us for lunch at noon at the Lilac Blossom located at 650 Amherst Street (Greystone Plaza) on Monday, November 13th. I hope you can join us for lunch and good conversation with our MFF friends.



Wine Tasting

On Sunday, November 19th at 1:00 pm, please join us at Labelle Winery for a Wine Tasting. You will have an opportunity to try different wines and you may find a favorite to serve with your Thanksgiving dinner!! They are located on Route 101 in Amherst. Hope you can join us.

Book Club

Monday Book Club

We had a great time discussing *The Book of Charlie* by David Don Drehle. There was mixed feelings about the book. We all agreed the history presented in the book was very interesting particularly the history around anesthesia. We felt that the author did not develop the character of Charlie so that we felt we knew him. The story contained a lot of historical facts as Charlie really seemed to get around and had many skills and adventures as he lived out his 109 years. As stated by Terri Schlichenmeyer for *The Daily News* of May 31, 2023 "Imagine if you could lock Forrest Gump, Tom Sawyer and McGuyver in a room for awhile. That's what you get with "The Book of Charlie."" If you would like to listen to the interview that Rose mentioned at our meeting go to the CBS interview at the following link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/the-book-of-charlie-a-centenarians-life-well-lived/> Another interesting interview can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IG7yJrh8So> which was an interview done with the author at a book store – they also talk about other books.

Our book for November is **The Maid by Nita Prose**. Evidently there are two books called *The Maid* so make sure you grab the right one. To get a taste of some of the book, I have found the following link: <https://youtu.be/scxmKGylHGk?si=4WJmyrk2LnZl3k-4>. The meeting will be on November 20 which should be a nice relaxing evening before Thanksgiving. Please check the evite for more information about the meeting. There are copies of the book available at the library right now. If you run into trouble finding the book, please let me know as soon as possible.

The December book is **The Matzah Ball by Jean Meltzer**.

Thank you so much to Lisa for hosting our October Monday Night Book Club meeting. I will be looking for hosts starting in January. Thank you to everyone who has offered to host until the end of this year.



Wednesday Book Club

The next meeting of the Wednesday book club is November 1st. We are reading "The Royal Spyness" by Rhys Bowen. Come join the fun that begins at 7pm.

Our December read is "The Christmas Bookshop" by Jenny Colgan. We will Meet on Wednesday, December 6th at 7pm.

Books are available at the library!

A GENTLE REMINDER PLEASE: Handle all books with care. I had to pay for and buy/replace our September read for the Merrimack Library. A book was damaged while checked out. THANK YOU for your help with this.

ALL ARE WELCOME. Laughter, conversation and books area great way to spend an evening.



Recipe Swap

Check back next month.